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During the past two years I have been unable to see the faint companion to *Procyon*, and BARNARD has been able to secure only "one complete and one partial measure." He writes: "The conditions have not been favorable. I have also imagined that the companion must be more difficult for some other reason than distance and unfavorable conditions." To this remark I may add my experience of failing to see the companion on several nights when, from the observing conditions and the measures made of other very difficult pairs, I had reason to expect success. BARNARD's measures give the position:—

1910.10 24°.3 5″.21

R. G. AITKEN.

September 13, 1912.

COMET *a* 1912.

The first comet to be discovered this year was found by GALE at the Sydney Observatory on September 8th. It was then too far south of the equator and too near the Sun to be visible from northern stations, but its motion was towards the north and east, and on the evening of September 19th it was seen with the 12-inch telescope of the Lick Observatory low in the southwest just after sunset. It appeared at that time as a more or less circular nebulous object about 5′ in diameter, with a well-marked central condensation. It was not so bright as a 6.4 B. D. star which was near by.

According to an orbit by EBELL, the comet will pass perihelion on October 4th, but it is not likely to be visible without a telescope.

We must go back at least ten years to find one in which no comet was discovered in the first two thirds of the year.

R. G. AITKEN.